

Governor's COVID-19 Equity Response Team
June 11, 2020
Remote Zoom Meeting
MINUTES

Meeting Open at 6:02 p.m.

Members Present (roll-call with disclosure of who else in room): Kirsten Durzy, Rogers Johnson, Dottie Morris, Bobbie Bagley, Trinidad Tellez. All unaccompanied.

Quorum: Yes

Others Present: Melissa Richards, note-taker. 7 public attendees.

Welcome, Structure of Remote Meeting, and Review of Charge

- Review of Right to Know Procedures for compliance with the requirements of RSA chapter 91-A and Emergency Order 12.
 - Members of the public can view and listen to the public meeting via online webinar or via phone. Members of the public will be muted throughout the meeting. Comments will be taken at the end.
 - All votes taken during the meeting shall be done by roll call vote
- Charge is to develop a recommended strategy to address the disproportionate impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and to oversee the implementation of the recommended plan.

Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes

Minutes from 6/6/2020 meeting approved after roll call vote with a vote of 4 for accepting the minutes and 1 abstention (Bobbie Bagley). Approved minutes will be posted on the GCERT website.

Approval of Group Charter

- Discussion of need for any additional comments or edits to the draft charter; add Item # 6 to revisit the document periodically.
- Charter approved with the additional item via roll call vote with a vote of 5 for accepting. Charter will be posted on GCERT website.

Continue review of Plan Outline – “Response Team’s Charge and Mission Document”

- Review of Section III: “Identify and recommend specific resources that could be allocated to address these disparities”.
 - Discussion that resources may not always be money related, could be other resources.
 - Discussion that can’t know what resources are needed if we don’t know the level of impact on minority community. Need to complete assessment – where are the gaps and barriers – to identify resource needs.
 - Focus primary work on Section I and II - this will inform III and IV and inform the strategic plan moving forward.
 - This is not just about COVID, but underlying inequities

- A 30-day window does not allow us to answer the question well.
 - Need to look at existing data and what we are planning to collect.
 - Discussion whether aware of use of community health workers (CHWs) for COVID response currently in NH.
 - Nashua Health Department
 - CHWs should also be based at ethnic and faith-based organization
 - Having a group of CHWs to augment addressing needs and providing support
 - Discussion of funding streams. None has dedicated attention to equity, however anticipate that to be an expectation in plan: whatever funding is distributed, as certain populations are inequitably impacted - money should be distributed in an equitable manner
 - Need to develop processes for organizations to know about and how to apply
 - All businesses/organizations should be able to apply
 - Example of MAIN STREETS funds: # of small business owners who did not know you had to register – if there was not intentional notification, we are not being equitable in our processes
 - There are funds going to be made available to nonprofits – unsure of how widely that is known
 - Discussion that GCERT committee members need an understanding of the current committees and funding streams for what we need to advise on
- Review Section IV: “Within 30 days, identify and recommend achievable steps for the state and other stakeholders to consider undertaking to remedy the disparate impact of COVID-19, which is likely to be a public health concern for months, if not years to come.”
 - Discussion about embedding community members who can bring an equity lens / lived experience perspective. Must be specific when discussing race and ethnicity.
 - Need more information on formed COVID-19 committees to understand current structure.
 - This needs to be even with groups that are already formed and in existence
 - Have to explicitly state need for race/ethnicity lens. Consider recommendations to build in intentionality. Be explicit in language and intersectionality.
 - Recommend they report how they are embedding equity into their response.
 - Leadership being responsive to equity – not an afterthought.
 - Update: Incident Command Team now has an equity lead (K.Durzy serving in role) as a result of this work.
 - Explore whether SHA/SHIP has an intentional focus on equity.
 - Opportunity with survey to leverage partnerships. Share information from COVID-19 Equity Task Force, co-convened by NH Public Health Association, DPHS and OHE.
 - Update: DPHS Equity Review Toolkit almost finalized, then will be available for anyone to make sure approaching programs/policy/projects with an equity lens.

Continue discussion of instrument and process to solicit input to inform plan

- Not discussed due to time constraints

Public Comment

- No written comments submitted by email before meeting
- One public comment made verbally
 - Richard Minard, Executive Director of Building Community in NH, based in Manchester, NH, non-profit serving refugees and immigrant populations in central New Hampshire.
 - BCNH has 3 Case Managers, 2 of whom work as community health workers who are doing work around COVID, but could be part of a coordinated effort.
 - State published rules for non-profits to apply for funding through CARES Act funds – Mr. Minard would like this group to recommend to those making funding decisions, to give priority for minority and refugee organizations.

Discussion of Next Steps

- Continue discussion of instrument and process to solicit input to inform plan
 - Plan for another subcommittee meeting next week
 - Review tool Bobbie sent and consider input, prior to meeting
 - Need to finalize over next 2 meetings; tight timeline for turnaround.
- Update on outreach to other States.
 - Team has outreached to states identified at prior meeting
 - Dottie – Louisiana – haven't heard back
 - Kirsten - Colorado, and Indiana – waiting for response back
 - Iowa has county level information / efforts
- Need better understanding of the various current COVID-19 committees (e.g. GOFERR)
 - Bobbie to send information via email and at next meeting
- Investigate other methods for sharing documents that works for state employees – Trini to explore sFTP (secure file transfer protocol)
- Inquire about setting up warm line – Trini to explore
- Next week's meeting will be scheduled via doodle poll

Meeting Adjourned: 7:33 p.m.